

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-5 and 9 are amended. New claims 13-20 are submitted. In addition, the specification is amended to obviate the typographical informality noted in the Office Action.

In response to the Office Action, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph due to language deemed in need of clarification. Claims 1-12 were also indicated as allowable is the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is overcome.

The indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. It is submitted that the amendments filed herewith obviate the grammatical informalities noted in the Office Action. However, particularly since the Office Action is directed to matters of form, it is respectfully requested that, should the Examiner deem that any further clarification is needed, he contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number so that the application can proceed toward issuance.

With respect to the language deemed in need of clarification in claim 1, the language "is positioned while contacting" is simplified to read --contacts--. In addition, the words "are formed" are deleted from the end of the claim as repetitive or surplusage. It is submitted that these amendments are directed to matters of form and improved clarity. Further, the intended reference to the contact and reference of the flow to the outside of the drum where the friction number is provided would be understood, for example, with reference to paragraph 6 (p. 2) of the present specification.

With regard to claim 2, the language deemed in need of clarification is deleted from claim 2. Since claim 2 is acknowledged as allowable at least by virtue of its dependence upon claim 1, it is submitted that claim 2 remains allowable. Further, features relating to those deleted from claim 2 are now set forth in new claims 13-16, however, with care taken

to avoid the language deemed unclear in the Office Action. Specifically, portions are more clearly identified by reference to a first portion and a second portion in the new dependent claims.

Although not noted in the Office Action, claims 3-5 and 9 are also amended for improved clarity to better place the application in condition for allowance.

New dependent claims 17-20 are also added to recite different locations of the radius grooves or the protrusions (by way of example, support is found at paragraphs 26-27 of the present specification).

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

A Notice of Allowance for claims 1-20 is earnestly solicited.

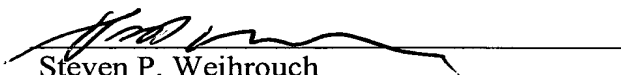
Respectfully submitted,

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